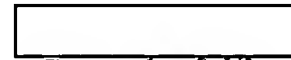


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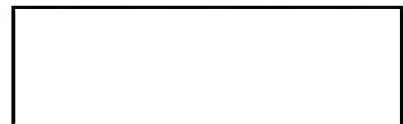
MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, CIA Reconnaissance Programs

SUBJECT : NRO Applied Research/Advanced Technology Program Call

1. With the receipt of the FY 68 NRO Program Call, we are in the process of preparing for the next round of negotiations on the OSP Applied Research/Advanced Technology budget. The Applied Research/Advanced Technology line item covers both the general R&D projects carried out by OSP as well as the component development and engineering study activities directed toward the

[Redacted] For a number of reasons we are not in a good position at the current time to prepare this portion of our submission in response to the Program Call. This memorandum is a brief discussion of this problem area, and requests your support in obtaining some basic information.

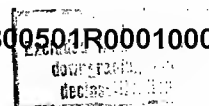
2. The Applied Research/Advanced Technology Program in OSP was initiated in mid-FY 66 with the initial release of funds from the NRO. In April of 1966 OSP submitted the FY 67 Program Plan to the NRO. In addition, budgetary estimates for FY 68 through FY 71 were prepared. While the basic charter for the OSP Applied Research/Advanced Technology Program is contained in the August 1965 NRO Agreements, the FY 67 Program was planned without any explicit guidance from the NRO. Of the [Redacted] request for FY 67, to date [Redacted] has been released. Only part of this [Redacted] was initially approved. The remainder has been released incrementally after a series of discussions and resubmissions.



NRO review(s) completed.

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3. In January FY 67, the Applied Research/Advanced Technology Program was extensively revised and resubmitted to the D/NRO. This resubmission included both an oral presentation to the D/NRO and his staff, followed by the detailed Program Plan and revised budget. This revised budget called for  of FY 67 approval. As yet, there has been no response from the D/NRO.

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4. The FY 68 Program Call contains only the most general guidance for the preparation of the FY 68 submission. It contains no information on the overall budgetary allocations for this portion of the NRP, nor does it contain any information or guidance concerning the allocation of the Applied Research/Advanced Technology efforts among the various NRP participating agencies. All attempts at obtaining more information in this regard from the NRO have been unsuccessful. Furthermore, we have been given to understand that no information relative to the overall NRP will be released unless specifically requested by the DCI in his capacity as a member of the Executive Committee.

5. The task of preparing a meaningful and professional FY 68 Program Plan for Applied Research/Advanced Technology is impossible under the current circumstances. While there appears to be little hope at this time of developing a rational, integrated NRP Applied Research/Advanced Technology Program, a minimum of essential information must be made available to OSP before any specific planning can be accomplished. In particular, OSP must know what action is to be taken on its revised FY 67 Program. In addition, OSP must have some general information on the FY 67 SAFSP Program in this area. Finally, OSP must have



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**SUBJECT: NRO Applied Research/Advanced Technology
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further guidance on the overall NRP Applied Research/Advanced Technology Program and the role of SAFSP and OSP in this Program. While we will continue our attempts to acquire the necessary information through channels available to us, it appears highly improbable we will have any further success. I therefore request that you take whatever action you deem appropriate towards the objective of resolving this fundamental problem.

JOHN J. CROWLEY
Director of Special Projects

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